

Authoritative normativity and standard-dependence

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We can distinguish between two kinds of normativity: formal normativity, which all norms have, and authoritative normativity, which is both more significant and more mysterious. Some are sceptical about the existence of authoritative normativity due to the assumption that it must be independent from our standards (including our preferences, values and institutions). I argue that this assumption is false. First, I introduce a new model of formal and authoritative normativity which explains the difference between the two as a difference in levels of justification. Then, I use this model to show that there is conceptual space for a standard-dependent account of authoritative normativity. Finally, I discuss how recognising the possibility of standard-dependent authoritative normativity is important for a fair assessment of naturalism-friendly alternatives to normative scepticism.